

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-01 EB-03 DRC-01 /047 W

----- 041424

R 051320Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6965

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2429

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR

SUBJ: SAUDI-IRANIAN RAPPROCHEMENT

1. SAYQD OMAR SAQQAF, SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD ME THIS MORNING (MAY 4) THAT HE VERY LIKELY WOULD GO TO TEHRAN FOR A MEETING WITH THE SHAH SOMETIME AROUND THE END OF THIS MONTH. HE SAID THE SAUDIS, PARTICULARLY THE KING, WERE EXTREMELY ANNOYED AT THE SHAH'S ACCUSATIONS, PUBLISHED IN EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS, THAT THE SAUDIS' VIEW ON OIL PRICES WAS IMPOSED ON THEM BY THE AMERICANS. HE SAID HE HAD CALLED IN THE IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST, HE HAD CHECKED WITH TEHRAN AND REPLIED THAT THE SHAH HAD BEEN MISQUOTED. BUT SAQQAF SAID HE KNEW THIS WAS NOT TRUE.

2. HE SAID THAT SHAH'S CONSTANT REFERENCES TO ZAKI YAMANI AS "AN AMERICAN AGENT" DOES NO GOOD TO EITHER COUNTRY. SAUDI ARABIA FAVORS LOWER OIL PRICES, HE

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SAID, BECAUSE THIS IS A RESPONSIBLE POSITION. SAUDI

ARABIA RECOGNIZES ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE WORLD AND
THIS POSITION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF PRESSURE
FROM THE UNITED STATES.

.NONETHELESS, HE SAID SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO STOP THE
CURRENT DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA
AND IRAN AND HE WILL TRY TO GET THINGS REESTABLISHED.
HE SAID THAT WHILE IN IRAN HE WOULD ALSO EXPECT TO
DISCUSS GULF MATTERS.

4. SAYYID OMAR SAID THAT THE TRIP WAS STILL UNDER
DISCUSSION AND THIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE HELD TIGHTLY.
IT PARTICULARLY SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH THE
IRANIANS. IF IT WERE THEY WOULD JUST CONCLUDE THEY HAD
PROOF OF THEIR ACCUSATIONS THAT THE SAUDI GOVT TOOK
ORDERS FROM USG.
AKINS

SECRET

NNN

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